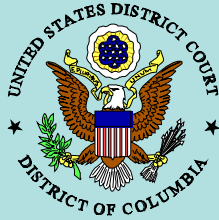


Electronic Courtroom (Courtroom 9)



UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE - WASHINGTON, DC

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia has been actively pursuing the purchase and installation of courtroom technology since January 1996. In October 1996, after much research, consultation with experts in the field, and work by Clerk's Office staff, the Court approved in Executive Session a proposal to fund one electronic courtroom using non-appropriated funds from the Clerk's Trustee Account. In early July 1997, the Court officially opened its electronic courtroom and made it available to judges and lawyers. The electronic courtroom includes the following components:

- **ELMO evidence presentation equipment** enables counsel to present evidence to the judge and jury via video monitor. This evidence can be in any medium (e.g., documents, photographs, negatives, x-rays, 3-D objects, etc.). The courtroom deputy has a "kill switch" on the bench that can turn off the entire system if the judge determines that certain images should not be made available to the jury.

- **Video monitors** are placed around the courtroom with the judge, the witness, the courtroom deputy, and each counsel table having a video monitor for the display of evidence from the ELMO, the VCR, and PCS. The **jury box** has eight 10" monitors. One monitor is placed between every two juror chairs. In addition, there is a 37" monitor just inside the well of the court for the gallery to view anything that is displayed through the system.



- **Light pens for annotation** enable the witnesses and counsel to draw, point, and highlight on the video monitor itself any evidence or document that is displayed through the system.

- **Video Cassette Recorder** allows playback of evidence through the video monitors. The VCR contains a freeze-frame feature on the remote control that allows the operator to slowly advance or freeze an image.

- A **customized integrated podium** holds all of the equipment which includes a light pen for annotation, a bar code pen, the VCR, and a small video monitor to provide whoever is at the podium with the ability to see what is actually being transmitted in the courtroom.

- **Counsel Connection Boxes** are located at each counsel table. These boxes enable counsel to plug in a laptop computer and present trial documents and/or evidence through the video system.

- A **PC Docking Station** is on the bench for the judge. This docking station enables the judge to plug in a laptop computer (provided with the courtroom) and take notes electronically, view real-time reporting, and conduct legal research. At the close of the day or session, the judge can remove the laptop and take it with him or her for further use.



■ **Real-Time** transcription is used to capture the record. CaseView II, a software product from Stenograph Corporation, enables the record to appear in English on certain video monitors in the courtroom as the court reporter takes the record.

■ A **PictureTel Video Conference** system is currently set up in Room 4421. In the future, we hope to move the system back and forth between Room 4421 and Courtroom 9. Certain switching devices need to be tested and installed for this to occur.

■ A **touch-screen monitor** is located at the courtroom deputy's work space which allows the courtroom deputy to monitor and control the signal that goes to each monitor within the courtroom.

■ New **counsel tables with retractable power centers and power spheres** enable attorneys to plug in a laptop computer right at the work surface. A PC with DCN connectivity is located at a smaller table for the law clerk.

In the early stages of developing the Electronic Courtroom, we discovered that retrofitting a 1950s era federal courtroom created many obstacles that we had to overcome. In an effort to preserve the judicial decorum of the courtroom, we decided it would be best to install a raised floor in the well of the courtroom. This enabled us to run the necessary cables for power, video, and data connectivity under the floor for a seamless integration of new technology in an older courtroom. Installing the raised floor meant planning for ramps in and out of the courtroom and the construction of a new wall just forward of the front pew in the gallery. The new wall, complete with a new set of swinging gates, was needed to allow the forward-most pew to remain usable, as the raised floor would have butted right up to the base of the pew. The four inch height of the new floor would have made sitting on that pew rather uncomfortable.

If you would like more information on the courtroom, please contact one of the people listed below.



COURTROOM CONTACTS

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